

JEWRY DUTY SIGN-UP INSTRUCTIONS – 5780

October 4th, 2019 through September 12, 2020

IMPORTANT UPDATE: THE TEMPLE WILL NOW PROVIDE THE BAGELS AND CREAM CHEESE FOR OUR MONTHLY BAGEL & BIBLE! (the 1st Saturday of each month, 9:30 a.m.)

IN THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. How to sign up offline
2. How to sign up online (**preferred**)
3. Jewry Duty expectations and optional guidance for choosing dates
4. What if I am unable to attend on the dates I chose?
5. Kashrut, nuts policy, and Shabbat practice reminder

1. HOW TO SIGN UP OFFLINE

We know that some of our members just don't get along with computers. If you're one of them, please just choose potential dates, call the office (860-423-3743) with them in hand, and Marlene will be happy to sign you up.

2. HOW TO SIGN UP ONLINE (PREFERRED)

We use an online volunteer-scheduling program, LotsaHelpingHands.com. To use the program to sign up for your dates, go to www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/644418 (Note that none of this is changed from previous years. If you have a LotsaHelpingHands log-in and know how to use the system, please go ahead and sign up for your 7-9 dates. Thanks!)

If you have never registered at LOTSA, follow the prompts to do so once you go to the site www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/644418 (it's easy). Marlene will receive an e-mail that you have registered, and she will be sure your account is up and running. Once that happens (you'll receive notification via email), simply head to the LOTSA site to begin choosing your Jewry Duty dates. From the home page, click on the "CALENDAR" tab, then Choose our 5780 calendar from the drop-down menu. Scroll through the months by clicking on the forward arrows at the top of each calendar. Click on the green square when you are ready to sign up for a date. (Green squares mean a volunteer is needed for that date and time, light blue squares mean a volunteer has signed up for that date and time).

3. JEWRY DUTY EXPECTATIONS AND OPTIONAL GUIDANCE FOR CHOOSING DATES

Food Expectations: *First, please remember that the main point of Jewry Duty is ensuring minyan, not food.* So, especially for our "regular services," be as simple or elaborate as you want. A traditional *kiddush* is just wine or grape juice (provided by the Temple) and a baked good. You can bring that or much more.

We have service regulars who are gluten-free, so it's nice to include something gluten-free. And, to make life easier on members with severe nut allergies, please make an effort not to bring peanuts or tree-nuts, or foods containing nuts. Please also follow our Temple's Kashrut Policy, which you'll find below, as well as in the Directory and on the Temple website.

Here is our regular rotation of services (deviations will be noted on the LOTSA calendar):

1st Friday of the month: Relatively traditional services at 7:30pm: regular kiddush refreshments.

2nd Friday: T.G.I.Shabbes: A wine & cheese musical celebration to welcome Shabbat and the weekend at 6:15pm: Jewry Duty brings appropriate "wine and cheese" items. Certain of our members tend to be sufficiently elaborate that no one has dinner afterwards. Others are more limited. Either is ok. **Please note:** *This isn't the time for the Temple's Manischewitz.* Jewry Duty should bring a red and a white, which need **not** have a kosher stamp, as all wines are considered kosher in the Temple kashrut system. Rav Jeremy provides an Israeli wine that does have kosher certification for those who prefer that.

3rd Friday: Tikkun Olam VaNefesh Service: a service for healing the soul and healing the world at 7:30pm: regular kiddush refreshments.

4th Friday: Shabbes dinner, usually at a member's home, 6:30pm: We'll be looking for a host (who has the option of providing a main course, purchasing with donated Temple funds, or simply hosting a pot luck), as well as a second Jewry Duty volunteer to help.

5th Fridays "Leader's Choice" at 7:30pm. Rav Jeremy or a volunteer leader from the Temple membership chooses what sort of Shabbat celebration to do. It could be a kumzitz, a discussion, a service, or something else: regular kiddush refreshments.

1st Saturday: Bagel and Bible: NOTE: THE TEMPLE WILL NOW PROVIDE BAGELS AND CREAM CHEESE FOR THIS. Jewry Duty participants provide any extra fixings the desire, and regular kiddush for after services. **All other Saturday mornings: Service** at 10:00am: regular kiddush refreshments.

Optional guidance for choosing dates:

Many people sign up for dates based on an anniversary, birthday, yahrzeit, or other occasion. Your family's Yahrzeit dates are enclosed. Yahrzeits are read the Shabbat previous to the yahrzeit date, unless the date falls on Shabbat, in which case it is read on that day. Many people also have a preference for the type of Shabbat celebration they want to sign up for. See the above rotation, but be sure to check the calendar for any changes to the regular rotation due to holidays or special events.

4. WHAT IF I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND ON THE DATES I CHOSE?

We ask that you please find someone who will switch with you or fill in for you, if at all possible. Remember that dropping off food doesn't help with minyan. Since it occasionally becomes necessary to contact Jewry Duty members, we ask that if there is enough advance time, you remove your name from the LotsaHelpingHands calendar and your replacement add theirs. If you're unable to find a replacement, please let Marlene know.

5. KASHRUT AND SHABBAT PRACTICE REMINDER

A basic summary of our current Kashrut Policy:

- We're usually vegetarian/pescatarian. (If you want to serve mammal meat, talk to the rabbi.)
- All veggie/dairy foods that are not cooked are ok.
- All veggie/dairy industrially produced foods are ok, whether certified kosher or not.
- All veggie/dairy foods with a hechsher (a registered mark certifying kashrut) are also ok, whether or not "industrially produced."
- Kosher fish (fish that had fins and scales) is considered "veggie/dairy" for the purpose of Temple Bnai Israel kashrut.
- Blood, including blood spots on eggs, is not kosher at Temple Bnai Israel.
We honor the tradition of making even our utensils part of a life of holiness by observing the following restrictions for food produced at home
- If a plastic or ceramic utensil has ever come into contact with burning hot meat (or meat product), it cannot come in contact with burning hot food that is to be brought to the Temple.
- If a wood, glass, or metal utensil has ever come into contact with burning hot meat (or meat product), it must be washed in scalding water before contacting burning hot food to be brought to the Temple.
These restrictions do require thought and attention, but it is the intent of the Ritual Committee that food can be relatively easily brought from home.

A note about Shabbat policy relevant to food:

While we recognize that our members are quite diverse in their individual or family practice of Shabbat, our in-synagogue practice as-a-community states, "On Shabbat, we avoid commerce and the objectification of people. By objectification, we mean using people as tools – that is in the roles they perform in the work-a-day world." In keeping with that policy, we prefer that Jewry Duty members *not* purchase their refreshments on Shabbat, which we consider to be using the workers at the bagel shop/grocery store in their work-a-day roles.